

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-20 have been amended as to matters of claim form and to further clarify the intended subject matter. No new matter has been added.

In response to the requirement of an election of species, applicants elect, with traverse, a composition comprising:

pilocarpine,
methylcellulose (bioadhesive polymer),
sorbitol (mass substrate with low molecular weight),
sodium or disodium hydrogen phosphate (buffer),
magnesium stearate (lubricant), and
polyethylene glycol (softening agent and hydrophilic substance).

Applicants believe that at least claims 1-11 and 13-20 read on the elected species.

The Office Action recognizes that PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2 regarding unity of invention apply. The Office Action states that claim 1 is generic. The Office Action appears to hold the position that the special technical feature of the combination of pilocarpine and gelatin is known (JP 07330602), thus there is no unity of invention.

Claim 1 is directed to pharmaceutical composition specifically for the treatment of hypotalism, and comprises pilocarpine and a bioadhesive polymer. The polymer can not simply be chosen as gelatin, but must "allow dissolution and local attachment to the tissues of the buccopharyngeal cavity" as recited in claim 1. JP 07330602 fails to teach or suggest this feature. Indeed, this feature includes a special technical feature that defines over the prior art. Thus, unity of invention exists between all of the compositions recited in claim 1 and claims 2-20 dependent thereon. Accordingly, Applicants request examination of the full scope of all of claims 1-20.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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